

Emergency Response Coordination

by Jay Lewis

DOH Public Health Laboratories

The effective planning and coordination of bioterrorism emergency response activities has become a primary concern nationally since the events of 9/11 and 10/4. These dates - now familiar to almost everyone - brought into focus the vulnerability of our population and the need to prepare for new kinds of emergencies and threats. Today, many improvements have been implemented in the State of Washington and across the country that provide added security and public health benefits for everyone. Within the Washington State Department of Health (DOH), planning for emergency preparedness and response has led to a regional system that allows for both efficient and coordinated emergency response. The stated goal of planning efforts has been to provide a seamless emergency response system from the federal level down to the first responder and the individual citizen.

In order to effectively manage emergency response activities and planning, the State of Washington has been divided into nine distinct regions. Regional Emergency Response Coordinators (RERCs) have been hired from each of these regions who have a lead role in the emergency response activities of their region and who, with the help of local health department personnel, coordinate and plan emergency response activities. There are also four State Emergency Response Coordinators (SERCs) in place who oversee and coordinate the activities of the nine RERCs. Tables 1 and 2 list contact information for RERCs and SERCs in Washington State.

To encourage coordination and resource sharing, state public health emergency preparedness activities are conducted through the nine regions. One local health jurisdiction in each region is designated the lead agency for that region and hosts the RERC. The lead agency and coordinator help local health jurisdictions to create local emergency preparedness plans and to collaborate on a regional plan that will tie local plans together. The RERC encourages the many entities that will need to work together during a public health emergency to participate in the planning process. In addition to planning, each region works to improve disease surveillance in its area and provide necessary emergency preparedness training to local public health, medical, emergency response, and other personnel. Regional epidemiology and surveillance coordinators and regional learning specialists help support this work. For additional contact information on the Local Emergency Response Coordinator in your county, go to: <http://dohweb/phepr/contactlocal.htm>.

continued on page 3

Inside This Issue

- 2 LQA Website
- 3 Emergency Response Coordination, continued
- 4-5 Training Class Registration Information
- 6 DOH Contacts/Calendar of Events

Practice Guidelines

The following practice guidelines have been developed by the Clinical Laboratory Advisory Council. They can be accessed at the following website:
www.doh.wa.gov/lqa.htm

Anemia	Lipid Screening
ANA	Point-of-Care Testing
Bioterrorism Event Mgmt	PSA
Bleeding Disorders	Red Cell Transfusion
Chlamydia	Renal Disease
Diabetes	STD
Group A Strep Pharyngitis	Thyroid
Hepatitis	Tuberculosis
HIV	Urinalysis
Intestinal Parasites	Wellness

Laboratory Quality Assurance Website

by Leonard Kargacin, CLS(NCA)
DOH Laboratory Quality Assurance

The Office of Laboratory Quality Assurance (LQA) has many resources available through its website. All of the materials listed in this article can be accessed by going to the LQA website at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/lqa.htm> and scrolling down the listing on the left hand side of the screen to **Links and Extras**.

Supplemental Material (Select the sidebar Supplemental Material):

Educational materials

- Biannual Verification of Accuracy Suggestions
- Good Laboratory Practices with Waived Test Systems
- Medical Test Site Survey Checklist (All Specialties)
- Pre-inspection Self-assessment Checklists
 - Aerobic Cultures
 - Chemistry Testing (Moderate Complexity Only)
 - Dermatology Testing
 - Gram Stains
 - Hematology Testing (Moderate Complexity Only)
 - Microscopic Examinations
 - Moderate Complexity Testing Kits
 - Proficiency Testing or Biannual Verification of Accuracy
 - Quality Assurance Plan Development

ELABORATIONS is a free monthly publication of the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Public Health Laboratories (PHL) and Office of Laboratory Quality Assurance (LQA).

Secretary, DOH: Mary Selecky
Health Officer: Maxine Hayes, MD, MPH
Director, PHL: Romesh Gautam, PhD
Program Manager, LQA: Gail Neuenschwander
Editor: Leonard Kargacin (206) 361-2804
Circulation: Leonard Kargacin (206) 361-2804

Comments, letters to the editor, information for publication, and requests for subscription can be directed to:

ELABORATIONS
Washington State Public Health Labs
1610 NE 150th Street
Shoreline, WA 98155

e-mail address: leonard.kargacin@doh.wa.gov

NOTE: Letters to the editor may be published unless specified otherwise by the author.

Website addresses:

DOH home page: <http://www.doh.wa.gov>
LQA home page: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/lqa.htm>
PHL home page:
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/PHL/default.htm>

Forms (Select the sidebar Supplemental Material):

Forms to notify LQA of changes in personnel and test menu are found under the **Forms** portion of this tab.

Newsletters: (Select the sidebar Newsletters):

Copies of the Elaborations newsletter from the past three years can be found here.

Practice Guidelines (Select the sidebar Practice

Guidelines): Copies of all practice guidelines developed by the Clinical Laboratory Advisory Council are located here.

Updates (Select the sidebar Updates): This tab will contain any updated information about the Medical Test Site (MTS) licensing program. Currently, there is information located under this tab regarding proposed changes to the MTS Rules.

Other Links (Select the sidebar Other Links): Links to the following are included under this tab:

- Continuing education opportunities
- Laboratory professional organizations
- Laboratory personnel certification
- Laboratory accrediting agencies
- Laboratory training programs
- Proficiency testing companies
- Miscellaneous Links
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
 - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
 - Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)
 - Office of the Inspector General
 - Laboratory Model Compliance Plan
 - Hospital Model Compliance Plan
 - NCCLS
 - UW Clinical Laboratory Initiative

Emergency Response Coordination, continued from page 1

SERCs and RERCs from across the state recently convened at the State Public Health Laboratories (PHL) in Shoreline for a training session to discuss how they might integrate their plans with those of the PHL and, at the same time, learn more about their PHL. The January training session included a welcome by the PHL Director, Romesh Gautam, Ph.D., and a tour of the PHL facility with an opportunity to meet laboratory staff. Individual training sessions throughout the day focused on training opportunities provided to clinical and environmental laboratories through the PHL Training Program; services provided by the State Office of Communicable Disease Epidemiology (located in the PHL facility); PHL testing services including biological, chemical and radiological testing; risk management and security; quality assurance and quality control at the PHL; and media relations. The training session also allowed time for frank discussions about how to improve the overall emergency response plan and future cooperative efforts.

The PHL Training Program also provides training opportunities for hospital and private laboratory staff on a wide variety of topics including bioterrorism preparedness training for sentinel (Level A) laboratories, and a shipping and handling course that focuses on the safe transport of infectious materials. To find out more about individual classes and schedules for specific courses go to: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/PHL/train.htm> or contact phl.training@doh.wa.gov or Margaret Hoff at (206) 361-2820.

Table 1 - Washington State Regional Emergency Response Coordinators

Region	Coordinator	Counties	Phone	E-mail
1	T.J. Harmon	Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish*, Whatcom	(425) 339-8708	tjharmon@co.island.wa.us
2	Rick Gunderson	Kitsap*, Clallam, Jefferson	(360) 337-5265	lindqs@health.co.kitsap.wa.us
3	Michael Presswood	Lewis, Grays Harbor, Mason, Pacific, Thurston*	(360) 786-5581, x 7050	presswm@co.thurston.wa.us
4	Kate Griffith	Clark*, Cowlitz, Skamania, Wahkiakum	(360) 397-8072	griffithk@doh.wa.gov
5	Cindy Miron	Tacoma-Pierce*	(253) 798-6556	cmiron@tpchd.org
6	Byron Byrne	King County*	(206) 205-6277	byron.byrne@metrokc.gov
7	Chuck Johnson	Chelan-Douglas*, Grant, Kittitas, Okanogan	(509) 886-6421	chuck.johnson@cdhd.wa.gov
8	Harvey Crowder	Benton-Franklin*, Klickitat, Walla Walla, Yakima	(509) 586-0673	harveyc@bfhd.wa.gov
9	Dick Green	Spokane*, Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, Lincoln, NE Tri, Whitman	(509) 232-1703	rgreen@spokanecounty.org

*Designated Lead Agency for Region

Table 2 - Washington State Emergency Response Coordinators

Regions	Coordinator	Phone	E-mail
1, 2, 6	Jennifer Foster	(253) 395-6716	jennifer.foster@doh.wa.gov
3, 4, 5	Johnny Clark	(360) 236-4623	johnny.clark@doh.wa.gov
7, 8	Rita Konzal	(509) 397-3559	rita.konzal@doh.wa.gov
9	Valerie Munn	(509) 456-2726	valerie.munn@doh.wa.gov

Gram Stain Training Class: A Practical Approach

COURSE OBJECTIVE: Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to perform the Gram stain procedure, and recognize the most common bacterial and host cell types seen in clinical specimens.

COURSE OVERVIEW: This course covers the performance, reading, and interpretation of the Gram stain when used on clinical specimens. The lecture portion of the course will cover clinical uses and significance of the gram stain, quality control and quality assurance, and bacterial and host cell morphology. In the laboratory portion of the course participants will have hands-on experience performing the Gram stain procedure, examining and reporting Gram stains of unknown organisms, and observing common bacterial and host cell types in a variety of clinical specimens.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Individuals who are currently performing the Gram stain procedure on clinical specimens and would like a review/update and individuals interested in learning to perform Gram stains on clinical specimens.

CEUs: Students will receive 0.6 CEUs for completion of this course.

COURSE DATE, TIME & LOCATION: Wednesday, June 9, 2004 from 8:00AM to 4:00 PM. This course will be held at the Washington State Public Health Laboratories in Shoreline, WA.

TUITION: \$105.00 on or before June 1, 2004, \$115.00 there after. Do not send money with course registrations. Course confirmations with payment instruction will be sent after receipt of the registration form

Further information may be obtained by contacting: Margaret Hoff, Training Program Assistant at (206) 361-2820 or via e-mail at phl.training@doh.wa.gov.

Gram Stain Training Course Registration Form

Name: _____

Employer: _____

Employer Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____ FAX: _____

E-mail: _____ Message Phone: _____

Class Date: _____ Wednesday, June 9, 2004

HOW TO REGISTER: Complete the registration form and mail to the **Department of Health, PHL Training Program, 1610 NE 150th Street, PO Box 550501, Shoreline, WA 98155-9701** or fax to: **(206) 361-2904**. A confirmation packet will be sent to you by mail. The packet will contain your registration confirmation, payment instructions, and a map to the course location. Please **do not** send money with your registration form.

Registration Fee: \$105.00

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Shipping & Handling of Biohazardous Materials Training Class

DATE, TIME & LOCATION: June 23, 2004 from 8:15 a.m to 12:30 p.m at the DOH Public Health Laboratories Shoreline, WA.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Due to the changes in the hazardous shipping regulations, this workshop is being offered in order to update laboratory professionals. If your lab transports specimens or cultures via the US Postal Service, private vehicle (public health nurse), or overnight air (FED EX, Airborne Express) then you will want to attend this course.

According to the Department of Transportation, employers must certify the training of their employees that ship hazardous materials.

COURSE CONTENT: The course will include an overview of the regulations governing the transportation of biohazardous materials including DOT, IATA and the US Postal Service Regulations; an overview of risk groups 1, 2, 3, and 4; proper packaging of biohazardous materials; and proper marking and labeling for shipping. Workshop exercises will allow you to practice what you have learned for each mode of transportation. A review of commercially available certified shipping systems, PHL shipping guidelines, and the use of the PHL shipping systems will also be discussed.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: This course is designed for laboratory testing personnel, supervisors, directors, and consultants of laboratories in physician offices and small hospitals who are responsible for shipping cultures and patient specimens.

CEUs: Students will receive 0.4 CEUs for completion of this course.

Tuition: \$85.00 if registered on or before June 14, 2004 or \$95.00 thereafter.

HOW TO REGISTER: Complete the registration form and mail to the **Department of Health, Training Program, 1610 NE 150th Street, PO Box 550501, Shoreline, WA 98155-9701** or Fax to **206-361-2904** or e-mail to **phl.training@doh.wa.gov** A registration form is available at our web site: **www.doh.wa.gov/ehsphl/phl/train/htm**. DO NOT SEND MONEY WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM.

Shipping and Handling of Biohazardous Materials Training Course

Registration Form

Name: _____

Employer: _____

Employer Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____ FAX: _____

E-mail: _____ Message Phone: _____

Class Date: _____ Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Registration Fee: \$ 85.00

Registration Deadline: Monday, June 14, 2004

Department of Health Contacts

Laboratory Quality Assurance

Program Manager

Gail Neuenschwander (206) 361-2805

Support Staff

Vicky Terry (206) 361-2802

Surveyors

Lori Hudson (360) 236-2966

Leonard Kargacin (206) 361-2804

Kathy LaBeau (206) 361-2828

Susan Walker (206) 361-2812

E-mail format: first name.last name@doh.wa.gov

PHL Training Program

Program Manager

Shelley Lankford (206) 361-2810

Support Staff

Margaret Hoff (206) 361-2820

Bioterrorism Training

Candace Bunch (206) 361-2913

Chemical Terrorism Training

Catherine Franklin (206) 361-2922

E-mail: phl.training@doh.wa.gov

Calendar of Events

PHL Training Classes:

(<http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/PHL/train.htm>)

Gram Stain

June 9

Shoreline

Shipping and Handling of Biohazardous Materials

June 23

Shoreline

Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium

October 20-23

Portland

11th Annual Clinical Laboratory Conference

November 8

Seattle

2005 WSSCLS/NWSSAMT Spring Meeting

April 28-30

Spokane

Contact information for the events listed above can be found on page 2. The Calendar of Events is a list of upcoming conferences, deadlines, and other dates of interest to the clinical laboratory community. If you have events that you would like to have included, please mail them to ELABORATIONS at the address on page 2. Information must be received at least one month before the scheduled event. The editor reserves the right to make final decisions on inclusion.